

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0027] of the specification of the subject Application, as published, (hereinafter, "Specification") with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] The particular implementation details of trunking as described in the foregoing patent applications shall not be discussed here to conserve space and to avoid unnecessary repetition; however, in general, as described in the foregoing patent applications, trunking treats a group of ISLs as a logical pipe. By doing so, frames received at one switch may be transmitted to an adjacent switch, for this particular embodiment, after being roughly at least evenly disbursed over the ISLs within the trunked group so that congestion over a particular ISL may be reduced and/or underutilization of a particular ISL may also be reduced. Trunking, thus, is beneficial, for example, as just described, at least in part because it enables frame traffic to be at least roughly evenly distributed across available ISLs while preserving in-order delivery. For this particular embodiment, ports 306-~~322~~321 that belong to the trunked group 300 are referred to as trunking ports.